

STAT

[Redacted] February 14, 1975

Mr. Angus Theurmer
Assistant to the Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Theurmer,

At your request, I have obtained and enclosed a copy of the Trenton Evening Times article which prompted my telephone call on Wednesday evening to request an official CIA response.

I appreciate your offer to comment further on the questions raised by the Evening Times story, and I will attempt to call you during regular business hours next week for that purpose.

Sincerely yours,

James T. Barron

James T. Barron,
Princeton correspondent
Trentonian

Princeton profs quietly linked to CIA spy net

By T. R. REID
Staff Writer

On an otherwise unmemorable spring day in the late 1960s, a Princeton University senior job hunting was surprised to receive a summons to appear before William D'O. Lippincott.

Lippincott, the tweedy, pipe-smoking scion of a well-to-do Philadelphia family, had been an administrator at Princeton almost continuously since his graduation there in 1941. By the '60s, he had become Dean of Students, a post that

made him the university's chief disciplinarian.

Thus it was with some trepidation that the senior made his way to the dean's book-lined office. In fact, however, the summons had nothing to do with disciplinary matters. Instead, the student says, Dean Lippincott began to ask him about job prospects.

"I understand you've been interviewing with the CIA," the dean said. The senior found the question perplexing. It was true that he had applied for a job at the intelligence

agency, but officials there had insisted on complete confidentiality. How had the Dean of Students found out?

The answer was soon forthcoming. "You see," the student recalls Lippincott saying, "I'm with the agency. And I thought we might have a talk — confidential, of course — about its work."

In the light of recent disclosures about the extensive domestic activities of the CIA and other security units, the student is one of several people formerly or presently connected with Princeton who have been de-

scribing a number of quiet connections between the university and the government's network of spy agencies.

Three Princeton professors say that there has been widespread undercover work on the part of their fellow faculty members.

In addition, a group of Princeton residents — some of them not connected with the university — have resurrected the controversy over the Institute of Defense Analysis, a secretive security consulting firm located on the Princeton University

campus. Officially, the university says it has no connection with any security agency, and there is no public information indicating such ties. The school has a formal policy prohibiting classified research.

Yet the university maintains a classified library (known as the "Forrestal Library Annex") which is open only to professors holding government security clearances. Further, several faculty members described in interviews recently what

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WILLIAM D'O LIPPINCOTT

Princeton

profs tied to spy web

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briefings" are still common. "It is my impression that people in politics, in history, and in the hard sciences are regularly providing surreptitious reports to the CIA," he says.

Aaron Lemonick, a physicist currently serving as Dean of the Faculty, says that he is certain no such work is being done under the university's auspices. "But I don't know — what people are doing on their own," he says.

Pemonick concedes that if professors are serving as surreptitious consultants to security agencies, it poses a delicate dilemma for the university. By their very nature, secret research and confidential reports run counter to the university's raison d'être: The advancement and dissemination of knowledge.

"It's unhealthy to have secret research going on," says Richard Falk, Milbank Professor of International Law and Practice. "It goes against the grain of our obligation as scholars. In addition, reporting to the CIA gives one a vested interest outside of academics. Inevitably, objectivity and credibility decline."

No absolute rule

Paul Signmund, a politics professor who has written widely about South American affairs, agrees that "there are ethical problems" when a professor is involved in confidential re-

search, but he warns that there should be "no absolute rule" on the matter.

"In World War II, any academic could have provided secret information to the government, and nobody would have been critical. Today it becomes a matter of how close an individual thinks we are to that situation. If he says we are near a state of peace, he might be critical of undercover work. If he thinks we're closer to the "war" end of the continuum, he might think it a patriotic duty to provide whatever information he could."

For Dean Lemonick, and for the university's Office of Research and Project Administration, the governing principle seems to be that whatever a faculty member does on his own must be considered his own affair. Tom Wunderlich, an official in the research office, says that "we would have no way to know whether or not a professor is engaged in private research on his own time. It's none of our business."

Just "Window dressing"?

But some faculty members argue that this position effectively weakens the rule prohibiting classified research, which was adopted in 1971 in response to sharp criticism from students and faculty criticizing academic connections with the Pentagon and the CIA.

"Sure they have a rule against secret work," a historian says. "But

the operative words are 'under university auspices.' If you want a secret contract, you just tell the government that you're working for them on your own. So the the rule is just window-dressing."

Some faculty members — most notably Steve M. Shaby, of the Department of Civil Engineering — have been prompted by the recent spate of press revelations to renew their criticism of the Institute for Defense Analysis, a research organization that has operated for more than a decade on the Princeton campus.

Shaby points out that IDA does virtually all of its work under contract to the National Security Agency — an organization that has been identified recently as one of those government offices engaged in illegal domestic surveillance. He and other faculty members are charging that several professors — mathematicians, historians, and political scientists — are involved in confidential work under IDA contracts.

Location obscured

IDA does not comment on such reports, and the university's response has been to portray itself as completely independent of the consulting firm. Although the firm is housed in a university building adjoining the Engineering Quadrangle, Nassau Hall, has maintained for several years that "IDA is not located on the Princeton campus."

The university's changing attitude toward the institute can be measured neatly by reviewing its catalogues over the past few years. In the mid-1960's, catalogues contained a map captioned "Princeton University" that clearly identified the IDA installation. The same map in this year's edition shows only an unnamed gray blob in the same location.

Few of the teachers or administrators interviewed could shed light on Dean Lippincott's relationship with the CIA. A reporter interviewing Lemonick got only as far as "I was told that Dean Lippincott . . ." when the question was abruptly cut off. "I don't know a thing about it," Lemonick said.

Lippincott, who retired from the deanship in 1968, says that his work for the CIA was simply that of a job recruiter. "I was asked — sometime, I can't remember when — to look for strong candidates for the agency, and I would talk to a few every year who had good grades and who I thought would be interested."

The former dean says that he did not perform recruiting services for any other private employer or government agency.

Nothing doing now

Princeton has a career services office that normally acts as go-between for undergraduates and potential employers.

A spokesman in the office of the current Dean of Student Affairs,

Adèle S. Simmons, says that no one in the office currently performs a recruiting service for the CIA or other security units.

The mild charges of CIA involvement currently au courant on the campus do not approach the uproar that swept Princeton in the period 1968-72, when anti-Vietnam war demonstrators denounced by name specific professors charged with secret work on behalf of the military and the CIA.

But the revelations of Woodrow Wilson, and the current led some survivors of that stormy era to revive the charges they made then.

Arno Mayer, a historian and an outspoken critic of the war, told the other day that he is still convinced that his telephone was tapped and that "the police followed me" because of anti-war activities in the late 60s.

When Mayer first made those charges, he was roundly ridiculed. "I don't think there were five people who believed me," he says.

Today, however, fewer people at Princeton seem willing to voice off such claims altogether. "At first it seemed like a kind of paranoid when Mayer and others said these things," Falk says. "But in the past two years, a lot of paranoid discussions about Princeton may turn out to be true as well."

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